



TOWN OF IPSWICH

IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS 01938

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Agricultural Commission minutes. March 2, 2016

Members attending: Jay Stanbury, Ed White, Cole Desmond, Royce Knowlton, and Christine Sandulli (alternate)

Non-members present: Kimberly Nolan, Marie Rodgers (filming)

The meeting was convened at 7:10 p.m.

Citizen's Queries: None

Minutes: The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Massachusetts Assn. of Agricultural Commissions. Ed White reported on meeting of Mass. Assn of Agricultural Commissions and reviewed briefings presented (attached).

- Many of the commissions had the same concerns. Town committees are often unfamiliar with agriculture and with the regulations. Local agricultural commissions need to work together as a group, show strength in numbers. Then can approach legislature as a group, or show solidarity on local issues, as the Ipswich Ag. Commission did with the Conservation Commission for Cole Desmond.
- Boards of health have a great deal of power and can close down a farm. They have the authority to prohibit injurious odors. For stables, they can inspect for ventilation, bedding, stall size, manure handling. Important for agricultural commissions to work closely with them and educate them on accepted farm practices.
- Towns can adopt "reasonable regulations." Question what is "reasonable." Agricultural commissions can mediate.
- Farmers markets are one of the biggest issues in the state.

Residential kitchens: Jay Stanbury met with Town Manager Robin Crosbie on regulations for residential kitchens, which are not allowed to prepare food for sale, even if the kitchen is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for such operations. Health Agent Colleen Fermon advised operators of residential kitchens to apply for a variance. Stanbury said Brad Mitchell had told him such kitchens are, in fact, allowed. He asked for a motion to show the health agent Mitchell's correspondence and follow up with Frank Di Luna if question continued.

Motion: Christine Sandulli moved to ask Stanbury to follow up on the residential kitchens issue. Motion was unanimously approved.

Nolan chicken operation: Kim Nolan reported that she is leasing land from Edward Marsh off Old England Road to raise broilers and laying hens and hopes to eventually have pigs. She is currently redesigning the coop and installing gutters to collect water, as the land does not currently have utilities.

Farmer market banner MOTION: Royce Knowlton moved that the commission appropriate up to \$1,000 for a banner over the road to advertise the farmers market. Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.